

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-06 RSC-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6103

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNITAR, UNGA

SUBJ: 29TH UNGA: ITEM 44 UNITAR

1. US MISOFF INFORMED US THAT HIS MISSION HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO CUT UK'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNITAR. UK OFFICER SAID THAT THIS DECISION COINCIDES WITH THE TERMINATION OF A FIVE YEAR PLEDGE ON THE PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNITAR. HE ADDED THAT THE UK MISSION BELIEVES THAT CUTTING THE UK CONTRIBUTION OF APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 TO ZERO WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME. THE MISSION, THEREFORE, IS GOING TO RECOMMEND TO LONDON THAT THE CONTRIBUTION BE CUT BY 50 PERCENT EACH YEAR.

2. COMMENT: THE UK IS THE THRID LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE UNITAR BUDGET. ONLY THE US(\$400,000) AND THE FRG (\$206,000) MARK LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOTAL BUDGET OF SOME \$1.4 MILLION.

3. THE UK REP, SPEAKING ON THIS ITEM IN PLENARY OCTOBER 6, MADE NO MENTION OF THE CUT; PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY WISH TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE NEW YORK MISSION AND LONDON.

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4. THE UK MISSION OFFICER DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE MONEY
SAVED WOULD BE DIVERTED TO OTHER UN ACTIVITIES, AND IT
MIGHT BE ASSUMED THAT THE CUT IS BEING MADE SIMPLY TO
SAVE THE AMOUNT IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, IT IS KNOWN
THAT THE UK MISSION HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH UNITAR
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FOR SOME TIME AND DO NOT
SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DR. NICOL, WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION TRULY
RESPONSIVE TO UN NEEDS OR OBJECTIVES OF THE
UK GOVERNMENT.
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